

Welcome to
**Westminster
Presbyterian Church**

Sunday, May 17, 2026 † 10:55 AM



3601 Halls Ferry Road Vicksburg, Mississippi

wpcvicksburg.com

Pastor Nathaniel Stamper

Bold indicates the congregation reads aloud
*Indicates those able may stand

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Calls Us

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 49:15–16

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

your walls are continually before me.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
3. Sing this sal - va - tion song, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
4. Lift high the Sav - ior's name, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!

G C G G C Dsus G

Loud praise to Christ our King, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
 Christ on the cross has won, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
 Till all the earth pro - claims, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!

G C D G Am7 D

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He who made all things well formed us his praise to tell;
 Praise we the ris - en Lord; come, run through mer - cy's door;
 Let now the gos - pel ring, Christ for the world we sing;

G C D G C Dsus G

praise is his gra - cious choice, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
 hear now the an - them swell, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
 loved, res - cued, and re - stored, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!
 the world to Christ we bring, al - le - lu - ia, a - men!

***INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

...Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power,

and the glory, forever.

Amen.

READING OF THE LAW

1 John 4:7–12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

The Lord Cleanses Us

CONFESSION OF SIN

Book of Common Prayer (1552)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden—cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1:8–10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“The Gloria Patri”

#735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The New City Catechism

(Q&A 48)

What is the church?

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ’s kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

The Lord Feeds Us

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“Psalm 138” (v. 1-2,4)

1. ¹With grate - ful heart my thanks I bring, be -
2. ³I cried to you, and you did save; your
3. ⁶O Lord, en - throned in glo - ry bright, you
4. You will stretch forth your might - y arm to

fore the great your praise I sing; ²I wor - ship in your
word of grace new cour - age gave; ⁴the kings of earth shall
reign a - bove in heav'n - ly height; the proud in vain your
save me when my foes a - larm; ⁸the work you have for

ho - ly place and praise you for your truth and grace;
thank you, Lord, for they have heard your won - drous word;
fa - vor seek but you have mer - cy for the meek;
me be - gun shall by your grace be ful - ly done;

for truth and grace to - geth - er shine in your most ho - ly
⁵yea, they shall come with songs of praise, for great and glo - rious
⁷through trou - ble though my path - way be, you will re - vive and
 your mer - cy shall for - ev - er be; O Lord, my Mak - er,

word di - vine, in your most ho - ly word di - vine.
 are your ways, for great and glo - rious are your ways.
 strength - en me, you will re - vive and strength - en me.
 think on me, O Lord, my Mak - er, think on me.

Paraphrase
The Psalter, 1912; alt.; mod.

SOLID ROCK 8.8.8.8.8.8.
 William B. Bradbury, 1863

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

#731

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

1. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King.
2. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, he the per-fect Son of Man.
3. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, Christ the Lord up-on the tree.
4. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, slain by death the God of life.

He, the theme of heav-en's prais-es, robed in frail hu-man-i-ty.
 In his liv-ing, in his suf-f'ring, nev-er trace nor stain of sin.
 In the stead of ru-ined sin-ners hangs the Lamb in vic-tor-y.
 But no grave could e'er re-strain him; praise the Lord; he is a-live!

In our long-ing, in our dark-ness, now the light of life has come!
 See the true and bet-ter Ad-am, come to save the hell-bound man.
 See the price of our re-demp-tion, see the Fa-ther's plan un-fold.
 What a fore-taste of de-liv-'rance, how un-wav-er-ing our hope:

Look to Christ who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us.
 Christ, the great and sure ful-fill-ment of the law; in him we stand.
 Bring-ing man-y sons to glo-ry, grace un-meas-ured, love un-told.
 Christ in pow-er res-ur-rect-ed as we will be when he comes.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:12-18a

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“We Struggle Yet the Gospel Advances”

Themes: Providence, Suffering, Motives, Rejoice.

Summary: Paul’s goal in this section is to change the Philippians’ perspective on his circumstances. He wants them to see that what appears to be a bad thing is actually a good thing. Why? God is using it. – Steven Runge

1. Suffering For Our Faith

2. Motives For Our Actions

3. Reasons to Rejoice

The Lord Sends Us

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lord Sends Us'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free;
5. He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
to spread thro' all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
• 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
his blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

7. To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n;
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.
Alt. 1961

AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

*BENEDICTION

1 Corinthians 15:58

May you be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

POSTLUDE

“We Struggle Yet the Gospel Advances”

Philippians 1:12-18

Westminster Devotions (May 18th - 23rd)

Monday: Read Philippians 1:12-18. Review your notes from yesterday’s sermon. What truth about God’s providence in suffering or Paul’s perspective on mixed motives encouraged or challenged you most? _____

How might this perspective change the way you view a current trial or difficulty in your life? _____

Tuesday: Read Philippians 1:1-18. How does Paul’s prayer for the Philippians’ growth in love and knowledge (vv. 9-11) connect to the surprising news that his imprisonment has actually advanced the gospel? _____

Wednesday: Read Philippians 1:12-18. In a world that often views suffering as meaningless or as a sign of God’s absence, how does Paul’s confidence that the gospel advances through trials offer a countercultural hope for believers facing hardship? _____

Thursday: Read Philippians 1:12-18. Why is Paul able to rejoice even when some preach Christ from selfish ambition and rivalry? What does this reveal about where our ultimate confidence should rest? _____

Friday: Read Philippians 1:12-18. Think and pray about the struggles you are facing right now. How can embracing the truth that God advances His gospel even through our pain and imperfect motives shape your attitude and future decisions? _____

Saturday: Read Philippians 1:18-30. What questions do you have about this passage? _____

Announcements

Welcome to Westminster – The Westminster family extends a warm welcome to all who worship with us this morning. We pray that God’s rich blessings in Christ may be yours. Visitors, please complete the Guest Card which is found at the end of each pew. We are delighted to have you with us this Lord’s Day.

Our flowers are offered up to Christ our King this day by Danny and Carol McPhearson. He reigns! “So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.” Mark 16:19

The Center for Pregnancy Choices baby bottle fundraiser has begun. Bottles are due back at the church on June 4. The CPC is a crisis pregnancy center here in Vicksburg. They are supported entirely by donations from individuals and churches.

Westminster is taking a break from Sunday School for the summer. We will be having a pre-service fellowship time in its place beginning next Sunday, May 24. Please join us for coffee and pastries at 10:15 AM every Sunday for the summer!

We will have an Ice Cream Social next Sunday, May 24, at 5:00 PM at the church. Please join us for this wonderful time of fellowship!

There is a VBS Meeting Tuesday, May 26, at Noon for all teachers and helpers. Please let Jennifer Sluis know if you want to help but cannot be at the meeting.

Westminster’s Kid’s Club will have their first adventure of the summer Friday, May 29th, at the Wild Country Safari in Epps, LA! Cost per child is \$4, children 3 and under are free, and adults are \$6. They will meet at the church at 8:45 AM. Everyone needs to bring their own sack lunch and drinks. Please let Jennifer Sluis (601-630-7383) or Susan LaBarre (662-310-0410) know if you are going or if you have any questions.

Online giving is available at www.wpcvicksburg.com by clicking on the Online Giving link.

Today and this week

Sun	9:45	Sunday School
	10:55	Morning Worship
Mon	6:30	Ping Pong
Wed	6:00	Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
Thurs	6:00	Session Meeting

Upcoming Events

Ice Cream Social, May 24, 5:00 PM
VBS Meeting, May 26, Noon
Kid’s Club, Safari Park, May 29
VBS, June 29-July 2, 9:00-11:30 AM

Nursery Workers: Today – Jennifer Sluis

Next Week – Laura Wells and Mary Mac Whitney